

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW MOOSE FROM ALASKA.*

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The Moose of Alaska has long been known to be the largest of American deer, but hitherto it has not been directly compared with true *Alces americanus*. During the summer of 1898 Mr. Dall De Weese, of Cañon City, Colorado, spent three months on the Kenai Peninsula, Alaska, in quest of large mammals for the United States National Museum. Of the Moose, the special object of his search, he secured four males and two females. These specimens show that the Alaskan Moose differs considerably from the animal inhabiting the eastern United States and eastern and central Canada. To the latter the specific names *americanus*, † *lobatus*, ‡ and *muswa* § have been applied. I can find no name, however, based on the Alaskan animal, which may be called:

***Alces gigas* sp. nov.**

Type adult ♂ (skin and skull), No. 86166, United States National Museum, collected on the north side of Tustumena Lake, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska, in September, 1898, by Dall De Weese. Original number 16.

General characters.—A larger, more richly colored animal than the eastern moose. Skull with occipital portion narrower, palate broader, and mandible much heavier than in *Alces americanus*.

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† *Alces americanus* Jardine, Naturalists' Library, XXI (Mammalia—Deer, Antelopes, Camels, &c.), p. 125, 1835. Eastern North America.

‡ *Cervus lobatus* Agassiz, Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., II, p. 188, 1846. Eastern North America.

§ *Alces muswa* Richardson, Zoöl. Voyage of H. M. S. 'Herald,' Vertebrals, p. 102, 1852. Central Canada.

Color.—General color a grizzle of black and woodbrown darkening along spine and changing abruptly to clear black on chest, buttocks, and lower part of sides. Median line of belly hairbrown. Legs hair-brown or broccoli-brown with darker shading. Head like back, but more finely grizzled. Ears yellowish white internally, broccoli-brown externally.

Skull and teeth.—The skull of *Alces gigas* differs from that of *A. americanus* in its larger size and greater massiveness, as well as in certain details of form. Chief among the latter is the great breadth of the palate, relatively to the length of the toothrow. In three males of *A. gigas* the ratio of least palatal breadth (between anterior premolars) to length of toothrow is respectively 47.1, 47.1, and 44.7. In three males of *A. americanus* it is only 36, 36, and 39. In this respect *Alces gigas* resembles *Alces alces*, though the Alaskan animal shows no approach to the conspicuous deepening of the antorbital portion of the skull, or the peculiar form of the premaxillary characteristic of the European species. The occiput is relatively higher and narrower than in *A. americanus*. In two males of the latter the ratio of depth betweeninion and lower lip of foramen magnum to greatest width across paroccipital processes is 68.5 and 72.2, while in three of *A. gigas* it is 81.8, 84.8, and 87.5.

Measurements.—Of the following tables of measurements the first is based on data furnished by Mr. De Weese. The skull of *Alces americanus*, measurements of which are given in the second, is that of a very large individual from Maine, considerably older than any of the specimens of *A. gigas*.

External Measurements of Alces gigas.

Number and sex.	♀ 86162	♀ 86163	♂ 86164	♂ 86165	♂ 86166
Tip of nose to base of tail.	2550	2562	2946	2946	3048
Tail vertebræ.	76.2	88.9	101	101	101
Ear from crown	255.7	297	304	304	304
Height at shoulder	1955	1930	2032	2032	2034
Shoulder to hip.	1574	1651	1701	1727	1752
Depth of body at shoulder.	812	851	914	927	965
Circumference of body at center	2032	2082	2184	2235	2286
Tip of nose to angle of mouth.	152.4	177.8	177.8	179	177.8

Cranial Measurements of *Alces gigas* and *A. americanus*.

Number and sex	<i>Alces gigas.</i>				<i>A. americanus.</i> 14646 ♂
	86163 ♀	86164 ♂	86165 ♂	86166 ♂	
Greatest length	615	635	645	633	600
Basal length	570	570	596	570	560
Basilar length	556	550	574	550	535
Tip of premaxilla to tip of nasal	275	280	290	285	268
Median palatal length	355	380	390	380	360
Tip of premaxilla to alveolus of first tooth	230	240	236	230	225
Greatest breadth including orbits	218	234	245	245	221
Least breadth including orbits	168	190	200	206	180
Least width between antlers		190	170	180	165
Least width of frontals between orbits and antlers		205	210	225	195
Greatest antorbital breadth	133	168	168	172	127
Zygomatic breadth	203	218	223	228	203
Mastoid breadth	147	165	172	168	170
Greatest width of palate including toothrows	143	142	150	156	142
Least width of palate including toothrows	105	110	118	110	98
Greatest width of palate between toothrows	90	92	95	101	88
Least width of palate between toothrows	68	69	67	70	53
Upper toothrow (crowns)	147	143	150	154	147
Distance between tips of paroccipital processes	85	92	100	95	80
Greatest width across paroccipital processes		165	160	165	175
Distance from inion to lower lip of foramen magnum		135	140	140	120
Depth between antlers	122	146	155	143	132
Greatest expanse of antlers		1530	1600	1580	1330
Expanse between uppermost points		1200	1140	1120	760
Width of palmation		310	360	360	380
Least diameter between burr and first tine		175	210	200	172
Length of mandible	470		485	480	460
Depth of mandible at posterior end of toothrow	59	62	58	65	59
Greatest depth of mandible	223	230	235	223	225
Least depth of mandible	30	31	31	34	27
Diastema	180	180	182	183	170
Mandibular toothrow (crowns)	158	152	160	165	160